

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for preprocessing input data to a non-linear model for use in  
5 electronic commerce (e-commerce). The non-linear model may include a set of parameters  
that define the representation of an e-commerce system. The non-linear model may operate  
in training or run-time mode. A data preprocessor may be provided for preprocessing  
received data in accordance with predetermined preprocessing parameters and outputting  
preprocessed data. The data preprocessor may include an input buffer for receiving and  
10 storing the input data, where the input data may be on different time scales. A time merge  
device may select a predetermined time scale and reconcile the input data so that all of the  
input data are placed on the same time scale. An output device may output the reconciled  
data from the time merge device as preprocessed data. The preprocessed data may then be  
used as input data to the non-linear model.